IN THE CLAIMS:

The following is a complete listing of the claims in this application, reflects all changes currently being made to the claims, and replaces all earlier versions and all earlier listings of the claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A color image reading apparatus comprising:

light-receiving means formed by a plurality of line sensors;

imaging means for providing a light beam from ~~image of~~ an object to said light-receiving means;

color-separation means, inserted in a first optical path between said imaging means and said light-receiving means, for color-separating ~~said scanning~~ the light beam into a plurality of color light beams;

first optical means having a power in a sub-scanning direction, inserted in a second optical path between the object and said imaging means, for temporarily imaging the ~~object in a sub-scanning direction in said second optical path, wherein said first optical means has a power in the sub-scanning direction~~ light beam from the object in the sub-scanning direction in the second optical path; and

a slit disposed ~~in the path~~ between said first optical means and said imaging means~~, at a position where said first optical means temporarily images the object~~ in the second optical path, at a position where said first optical means temporarily images the light beam from the object in the sub-scanning direction.

2. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

line spacing correction means for correcting deviations of imaging positions on a surface of said light-receiving means caused by different wavelengths of the color light beams color-separated by said color-separation means; and

second optical means having a power in the sub-scanning direction.

3. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said color-separation means, said line spacing correction means, and said second optical means are inserted in the optical path between said imaging means and said light-receiving means and are placed in an order of said color-separation means, said line spacing correction means, and said second optical means from the side of said imaging means.

4. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said color-separation means, said line spacing correction means, and said second optical means are inserted in the optical path between said imaging means and said light-receiving means and are placed in an order of said second optical means, said color-separation means, and said line spacing correction means from the side of said imaging means.

5. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said line spacing correction means comprises a plane-parallel glass, said color-separation means comprises a transmission linear blazed diffraction grating, and said plane-parallel glass and

said transmission linear blazed diffraction grating are integrated and are placed to have a tilt with respect to an optical axis of said imaging means.

6. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said line spacing correction means sets spacings between adjacent ones of the plurality of color light beams color-separated in the sub-scanning direction on the surface of said light-receiving means to be equal to each other by changing optical paths of the color light beams using different refractive indices depending on different wavelengths.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said first optical means comprises a cylindrical lens ~~having a power in the sub-scanning direction~~.

9. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said second optical means comprises a first cylindrical lens having a negative power in the sub-scanning direction, and a second cylindrical lens having a positive power in the sub-scanning direction.

10. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said color-separation means color-separates said scanning light beam image into three color light beams in a direction perpendicular to a line-up direction of pixels of said line sensors.

11. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising first, second, and third mirrors inserted in the optical path between the object and said imaging means, and

wherein said first optical means comprises at least two cylindrical lenses, and said slit is placed at or near a position where the cylindrical lens placed on the object side temporarily images the object.

12. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the cylindrical lens placed on the object side has a positive refractive power, and is placed near the object.

13. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the cylindrical lens placed on the object side has a positive refractive power, and is inserted between said first and second mirrors.

14. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said slit and second mirror are integrated.

15. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the cylindrical lens placed on the side of said imaging means has a positive refractive power, and is placed in the vicinity of said imaging means.

16. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said second and third mirrors construct an inverted-V-shaped mirror unit.

17. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said color-separation means comprises a transmission or reflection diffraction grating.

18. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said color-separation means comprises a dichroic prism or dichroic mirror.

19. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein a slit is placed at or near a position where said first optical means temporarily images the object.